

## GILA COUNTY DIVISION of HEALTH and EMERGENCY SERVICES

5515 South Apache Ave, Suite 100, Globe, AZ 85501 PHONE: (928) 425-3231 ext.8811 FAX: (928) 425-0794 "Improving the Quality of Life for all Residents"

## **Health Department warns businesses of potential SCAM**

The Gila County Division of Health and Emergency Services is warning restaurant owners of a potential scam targeting local eateries.

Restaurants around the state have been receiving calls by individuals claiming to be health Inspectors. These individuals are calling restaurants and threatening to shut down their operations unless they are allowed to inspect them. The imposter inspectors make reference to monetary compensation to keep the business from closing.

Restaurant/Bar owners and managers should be aware of certain criteria which will help them know if they are dealing with a legitimate Gila County Health Inspector:

- County inspectors are required to introduce themselves to the owner or manager and do not call ahead of time
- They must always possess a County-issued photo identification card and Inspectors should provide a County-issued business card upon request
- Inspectors do not charge money or fees for a health inspection, hand washing signs, or other signage or equipment
- Inspectors do not accept gifts or gratuities for any reason

Should a restaurateur receive a call from somebody claiming to be a health inspector, the Gila County Division of Health and Emergency Services recommends they contact the Gila County Sheriff or your local police department; do not give out any personal, private or secure information, and be sure to obtain a name and contact number for the caller.

The Gila County Division of Health and Emergency Services can be reached at (928) 425-3189 or (928) 474-1210. Health officials who answer will be able to confirm whether the person is, in fact, a legitimate health inspector.